Varahi Project under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme

1503. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Karnataka has requested to include Varahi Project under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has submitted proposal for inclusion of Varahi Irrigation Project under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. After examination of the proposal, the State Government has been requested to provide compliance to certain observations.

Rain Water Harvesting

1504. SHRI T.T.V DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the report "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" prepared by the Cenral Ground Water Board;

(b) the steps taken by Government to encourage rain water harvesting; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide incentive to States like Tamil Nadu which are implementing rain water harvesting successfully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a report entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater", which envisages recharge of 36453 Million Cubic Metre volume of surplus monsoon run-off, through construction of 39.25 lakh artificial recharge and roof top rain water harvesting structures in the identified areas of 4.5 lakh Sq. Km..The report outlines broad framework about feasibility of these recharge structures in various parts of the country. The Master Plan is a conceptual document.

(b) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concenred State Government to take steps to encourage rain water harvesting. However, the following steps have been taken by the Union Government to encourage rain water harvesting:—

(i) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

(ii) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide rooftop rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.

(iii) The CGWB has implemented a Central Sector Scheme on Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country during the Ninth Plan under which 165 demonstrative recharge projects were taken up.

(iv) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued directions to Group Housing Societies, Institutes, Hotels, Industries, Farm Houses, etc., in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad and other areas of NCT Delhi where ground water table is below 8 metres from ground surface, to adopt rain water harvesting system.

(v) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to around 2000 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

(vi) CGWA has also produced a film on rain water harvesting in urban areas, rain water harvesting in rural areas, ground water pollution etc., for wide publicity among masses for awareness of rain water harvesting. Mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water have been organised throughout the country involving Central/State Governments/NGOs/VOs/RWAs/Educational Institutions/Industries and Individuals. Rain Water

Harvesting campaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting meassages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have also been undertaken.

(vii) The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storihg of water run-off including rain water in all new building on plots of 100 square metres and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made rooftop rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

(c) No, Sir.

Storage of ground water

1505. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have issued any directions to the State Governments to take necessary steps to preserve the ground water storage against its unlimited exploitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States particularly State Governments of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab and Delhi;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to introduce any special scheme to minimize the use of ground water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the average rate of extraction of ground water for agriculture per day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Union Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/ Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. Most of the State Government